



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SUSIE CARTER



“WIND BENEATH OUR VETERANS WINGS”

“BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”

Thank you to everyone that was able to come to Mid-Winter Round up in Corpus Christi. We had a great attendance and I do believe that lots of excellent information was shared by the Chairmen on their programs. Congratulations to the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners. Also, congrats to our awesome teachers. It is so rewarding to see our students and teachers honored for their hard work. And a special congratulations to our own Jennifer Richardson for her outstanding work as a Service Officer assisting our Veterans. She is truly the **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**.

As always, we were blown away by simply amazing Buddy Poppy displays. Some of you took the “Have Fun With A Pinata” idea to new heights. Imagination, work and determination produced a room full of fabulous pinatas. Congrats to all the winners. You did an amazing job!!

We certainly enjoyed our visit with National President Carla Martinez. It was great to have her visit our great State while we were in Corpus Christi. She is a knowledgeable, compassionate, and down to earth lady.

To our completely wonderful membership team, Beth West and Shawn Terry, thank you for a

job well done! I couldn't be more pleased with our membership standings and the “Soaring With Eagles”, night out with Auxiliaries reaching 100% by 12/15/23 and District Presidents reaching their goal. Congrats to everyone for your hard work. Great job!!!

January also found me in Districts 19, 30 and 14 for “official” visits. Thank you for the excellent hospitality, the great food and friendship.

February promises to be a very busy month as I will be looking forward to visiting Districts 9, 6, 21 and 3.

Let's all buckle down and start working on those final portions of our programs and continue to work membership. We still have work to do, goals to meet and Veterans to take care of. Check your Department of Texas Program Development Book for up-coming deadlines, important program events to complete, donations that are due and of course, any reporting that needs to be done. Every National Program **MUST** be 100% in reporting.

Let's keep **“Banding Together For Our Veterans”** as we continue to be the **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Tammie Mosby – Chairman
Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman

We found the following information on the VFW website. This is important these days. You can start a small food pantry at your Post. Remember every little thing helps.

For families already struggling to put food on the table, the impacts of the COVID pandemic and high inflation have had a far-reaching impact on Americans across the country, ranging from job loss to food insecurity. Not being able to have access to enough nutritionally adequate foods to live an active and healthy life is something no one should have to worry about, including our nation's service men and women.

Defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life, food insecurity is a problem that may affect 1 in 8 people in America and 25 percent of active-duty military and Reserve members have had to rely on food bank donations to feed their families. A recent survey from Blue Star Families identified that 14% of enlisted, active-duty household respondents reported facing difficulty putting food on the table in the previous year.

The VFW and Humana think this is completely unacceptable and we need YOUR help supporting the "*Uniting to Combat Hunger*" (UTCH) campaign to fight food insecurity and strike a knock-out blow against hunger for good.

The pandemic and social-distancing guidelines have made it increasingly difficult to host food drives or fresh food harvesting gleanings, so this year we are teaming up with [Feeding America](#)[®], the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, to raise donations for local Feeding America Member Food Banks. Every dollar donated to Feeding America helps provide at least 10 meals to people facing hunger!

If you need us for anything, please email me at tjpurplerose@yahoo.com or you can call 936-414-5293. You can also contact Co-Chairman Karlene Chambers at karlene440@gmail.com or call her at 713-502-1436.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”



REVITALIZATION/EXTENSION
CHIEF OF STAFF
Debbie Daniel

It was so good to see all of you at Mid-Winter in Corpus Christi. I do hope that you learned something new AND will take all the info you were provided, home to your fellow Auxiliary brothers and sisters. I hope you went home revived and ready to complete the rest of this **“Wind Beneath Our Veteran’s Wings”** year.

As we soar into February, District Presidents, there are numerous house cleaning items that are super important for you each to check out.

1. Have all of your inspections/visits been completed with a copy sent to the Department office AND myself? You should have received a note from me if you have not. Please check your records and make sure to follow up with me ASAP.
2. Have you set up a schedule for any “return” or “follow up” visits that are needed within your Auxiliaries? Based on “Red Flags”, unanswered questions at the time of your completion of the inspection form, extra training/mentoring that might be needed and missing officers. Many times, an Auxiliary needs a follow up visit. Whether it be, mentoring, extra training, help with membership or addressing issues of concern, that follow up visit could be one of several factors that could revitalize an Auxiliary. Our goal is always to save those Auxiliaries that are struggling. Follow up and mentoring is a first step to prevention.
3. Have you thanked your Auxiliaries and its members for a job well done and let them know that you care? Kindness and appreciation go a long way. Words of encouragement really boost the desire to do better or do more. Always be nice, lead by example and follow up as needed.
4. Have you stayed in touch with Auxiliary Presidents at least monthly? Communication within your Districts produces continuity. District meetings, contests, chairmen's info and important info passed down from National and State can be shared with your Auxiliaries in a monthly newsletter. If you are not doing so, try sharing a newsletter for a few months and see how it goes. It couldn't hurt.

5. Have you “followed up” with any of your Bachelor Posts to see if they are interested in an Auxiliary? Those of you that were “in process” and put on hold prior to the holidays, should now be checking with those Post Commanders to see what they need and offer your assistance in helping them “gather” the initial members to open a new Auxiliary. If you as an Auxiliary President do not have time to do it, please get your Membership Chairman/team to follow up. Remember, it probably won’t get done if you don’t initiate the process.

Our Auxiliary months are gonna soar pretty fast now. There are so many things to review and double check. Please don’t ever hesitate to reach out. I’m always here by phone, email or text and will do my very best to get back to you ASAP. I want every single President to excel as a leader and I want to see your Districts fly high in membership and accomplishments. Ya’ll CAN do this because we all know Texas has the Very Best!!!! because we are “**Banding Together For Our Veterans**” and we are always the “**Wind Beneath Our Veteran’s Wings**”.



PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Denise DuBois

As it can be observed by the calendar, time is really slipping by quickly.

Thanks for an outstanding Mid-Winter Program Presentation and being available to the Auxiliary members for assistance.

Just a reminder Chairmen:

**3 articles left – March (all chairmen), April and May (Small article from each Chairmen)

**There will be no June Issue per the President’s instructions

**Promotional material to National Ambassadors is continued to be sent

**Now is the time to begin reviewing and separating reports according to Divisions – makes winner selection easier at the end

**Contact any Auxiliary that has not sent in reports or Mid-Year Reports

**If not already started, begin totaling numbers from reports that the Year-End Reports for National Programs require. This report goes to Department President.

I want to thank each of you for a job well done this year with your individual programs.

If any questions and concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.



SCHOLARSHIP
Dorthy L. Bennett - Chairman

Mid-Winter Roundup is in the books. I hope that everyone had a great time and learned something new about the many programs that the Auxiliary works every year. We are now in the middle part of the year with much more to accomplish. Please review the information on the Scholarship Program. Report what the Auxiliary has done and what the Auxiliary is planning on doing for the remainder of the year.

Please report all your activities with this part of the program. To be 100% in reporting I need monthly reports to judge which Auxiliaries will receive awards.

Remember we have Auxiliary Continuing Education for Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. This is a written entry of 300 words or less turned into and received by National February 15, 2024. The application can be found on the Auxiliary website and through MALTA. National has set this part of the program in place to help improve the lives of our members, their spouses and their children.

Don’t forget that this program continues with Young Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional. Follow the guidelines in the Program Book starting on page 62. You may also find more information on MALTA under Scholarship. Page number 53 of the National Program has changed. There has been a change to the amounts given at National for art. Second place has increased to \$1,500. The local Auxiliary must receive art pieces by March 31. I must receive no later than April 15 as this date is set in stone. Districts can hold judging for art pieces but it is not required. Promote art contest through the same channels that were used for Voice of Democracy.

Remember we are asking that Auxiliaries donate monies to create a **Department Award for 2- and 3-Dimensional Art**. The goal is to have awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places that total an amount of \$1,000.00. Thank you in advance for this. We know that we have asked a lot this year. Please earmark checks for Department Art Contest 2- and 3-Dimensional.

You may contact me for any help or explanations that you might need. More information can be found in your Department Program Book and on MALTA under

Scholarship Resources. Let's continue to be the **"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"** as we **"Band Together For Our Veterans"**. Happy Valentines Day!



AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Gerald Spradlin – Chairman
Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman

Hope everyone is having a great start to the new year! Mid-Winter was quite an experience this year. Ms. Cyndy got to be Madam National President's Page and that was exciting for her.

Now that we have Mid-Winter under our belts, it's time to keep the momentum going and work toward the finish line for this year. You have all done such a great job of working this program since it is a little easier to understand this year. We are amazed at the work you are all doing.

We hope you are enjoying working the program and being out in your community more. It's amazing how many areas our Auxiliaries can find to fit in and play support roles in our communities around the state.

We have Valentine's Day and Easter coming up in the near future. Those are two more good opportunities to plug into events in your community to help out. Be sure your membership approves the event/project and proudly wear your Auxiliary apparel so the community knows the VFW Auxiliary is there to support them.

We are still getting some reports with dollar amounts on them for expenses/values. Please remember that money cannot be reported under this program, so be sure to report it under the appropriate program so you get credit for it.

We tried to respond and let the ones know that when we could, but there were so many reports we may have missed some. We don't want you to not get credit for money spent.

Thank you for all your hard work. Please continue your wonderful work and let's keep the momentum going for the rest of the year.

Remember, by working side by side we can better both the community and the VFW Auxiliary!

"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Candi Baines – Chairman
Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman
Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman

I hope you all made it home safe from the Mid-Winter Conference and left feeling recharged and ready to push through to reach all your goals by the end of the year.

I would like to share a couple of things from your fellow Auxiliaries that would help your Mentors. Mentoring does not have to be hard, even though sometimes we have obstacles we have to help work out. It really is the simple things that can be effective.

Pamela with Auxiliary 8549 put it simple. She said they are a small Auxiliary in a small town. They help each other in any way they can by learning from their past officers and figuring out new alternative ways to accomplish their goals. The key to this is they do it together!

Teamwork really does make the Dream work!

President Robbin Zak with Auxiliary 10376 has implemented a volunteer of the month program. They reward members for their hard work and leadership. Leading by example promotes positivity and teamwork.

I hope these two examples can help those of you who reported No in every column of your Mid-Year Report. This is impossible. At minimum you should have at least two Yes boxes checked.

Do the following:

Question 1: Did you use any mentoring resources/materials and how? (Your podium book is a resource and at minimum is used to conduct a meeting)

Question 2: Did anyone step up as mentor? (If no one stepped up, that person should be the President since he/she leads the Auxiliary)

Let us get those reports in with at least two boxes checked. I do not feel it is truly 100% reporting if all boxes report NO.

"Mentoring should be a fulfilling relationship between somebody with more experience and somebody with less, with the goal of helping both individuals become elevated versions of themselves." - Janice Omadeke

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AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Ronnie Wiley – Chairman
Laurie Wiley Co-Chairman

February is upon us, Valentine’s Day is close, have our youth make Valentine Cards and give them to our Veterans. Especially our Veterans in nursing homes, hospitals and homebound. Thank them for their service and the sacrifice that they gave for each one of us.

Remember, if you distributed or presented American Flags or Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Flags, you need to tell us how many and to who, plus anything you used as a resource, by downloading it off MALTA. For instance, Patriotic Citations or Certificates of Appreciation, that you then distributed to businesses or individuals who showed respect to the American Flag?

Discuss the importance of observing National Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Day next month.

February 15	USS Marine
February 19	Presidents Day
February 28	Desert Storm

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BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Denise DuBois – Chairman
Eunice Cordova – Co-Chairman

Buddy Poppy

The Pinatas brought to Mid-Winter were amazing to say the least. Such creativity and imagination from the membership is absolutely off the charts. Kudos for all the wonderful pinatas displayed. Remember to report the pinatas if not already reported. Include the number of poppies, number of members participating, hours and of course a picture of the work.

National Home

Helping families, parents and children is the goal of the National Home. There are 42 homes with families allowed to stay a maximum of 4 years. During the stay families are given assistance that is needed.

Such assistance:

- *Finding jobs

- *Providing daycare
- *Assistance with budgets
- *Mental health.

There are still ways to support National Home. Even with the Auxiliary year on the downward trend support can be shown:

- *Purchasing Tribute Bricks
- *Life Memberships
- *Becoming a Hometown Hero (recurring monthly contribution to the National Home)
- *Utilizing the Wish list from Amazon
- *Health and Happiness.

As of 1/2/24 – Department of Texas Auxiliary

Tribute Bricks	27
Life Membership	43

Review the program, make sure that all the questions on the Year-End Report can be answered and that everything that has been completed for Buddy Poppy and National Home has been reported.

Reading reports for this program has shown that the ongoing support of the National Home and Buddy Poppy has never faltered. Thank you for always having the goal of support and commitment for our Veterans and programs in the forefront.

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HOSPITAL/VAVS
Pamela Fintel -Chairman

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY

It was great to see you all at Mid-Winter. I always enjoy meeting with you and talking about what you have done for our Hospitalized Veterans. I know you have been very busy from reading all your reports! You all are doing an Outstanding Job! But we can’t slow down now. February is also going to be a very busy month.

FEBRUARY is National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Get your youth involved in making Valentines Cards for our Hospitalized Veterans. Plan a King and Queen Valentine’s Day Party at the VA Hospital, Retirement Home or Nursing Home. Get your VFW involved as well as your youth. This is a great way to pay tribute and show your appreciation to our Hospitalized Veterans. You can also hold a

Valentine's Day Bingo. Our Veterans enjoy seeing us as much as we enjoy seeing them. Make some Valentine goody bags with treats and fruit. Don't forget the Valentine's Card! Let's show them how much they mean to us!

Let's not forget our Doctors and Nurses. A simple Valentine Card that says "THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR HOSPITALIZED VETERANS" maybe a little Valentine candy too.

Your Nomination Forms for

Outstanding Hospital Volunteer

Outstanding Hospital Youth Volunteer

Hospital Recruiter of the Year

Are due to me on **March 31, 2024**

It is also time to THANK all your Hospital Volunteers for all their hard work for our Hospitalized Veterans. It means a lot to them to be recognized for all they do.

"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"

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MEMBERSHIP

Beth West – Chairman

Shawn Terry – Co-Chairman

Happy February! It was absolutely awesome to see so many Auxiliaries and Districts make their membership goals and attend the "Soaring with Eagles Celebration" Membership Dinner at Mid-Winter. This is a great indication that everyone is working hard on their membership movie. As this time, Texas needs less than 700 members join/renew/rejoin dues in order to be 100% in membership.

Wouldn't it be phenomenal if Texas was 100% plus in Membership by the end of March? Please continue to encourage those annual members to pay their dues so that they can once again, be a member in good standing. Since dues cards are checked at each Auxiliary meeting, it is imperative that they have a current dues card so they can come and participate in meetings.

One of our National Membership Program's calls is for us to "Include Everyone". Have you done that? Texas has done an outstanding job of making sure we offer those Member-at-Large status to closed Auxiliaries. We have many Members-at-Large. We need to start working on getting them back in Auxiliaries. They can visit Auxiliaries, Districts, Department and National meetings but are unable to participate in discussions during business in these

meetings. If you know of Members-at-Large, try to invite them to join an Auxiliary. Sometimes, they are just waiting to feel needed. Even if they don't join, the fact you ask may just reinvigorate them to become active. Even if they choose not to transfer into your Auxiliary, they will appreciate being included.

Don't forget to "Follow Up!" For those that have reach your membership goals by recruiting, don't stop there. Be sure and follow up with them. Do they have a ride to the meeting? Do they have any questions about the last meeting that would make this meeting more comfortable? Try to make sure they do not feel like an "extra" in your production.

There is an important upcoming date for an award to Auxiliaries that reach 98% in Membership by March 31, 2024: National is offering \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 98% Plus in Membership by March 31, 2024* (*Based on the June 30, 2023, year-end membership numbers). Many Auxiliaries have already qualified for this award. For Auxiliaries that are still not quite there yet, there is time to achieve this goal.

We hope that everyone has a great month and a Happy Valentine's Day! Once, again, thank you all for working so diligently for Texas and this glorious organization.

"Wind Beneath Our Veteran's Wings"

"Banding Together For Our Veterans"



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Teresa Ramon – Chairman

Michelle Booker – Co-Chairman

Greetings! What a phenomenal first half of our year we had 2023/2024. With all the exciting reports that we received the bar has been raised. Did you enjoy the Mid-Winter Convention? There were so many activities that were shared. Thank you all for the many reports. Maybe there were some that inspired you to do within your Auxiliary.

We have several programs that have expiration dates approaching on March 31, 2024, so be mindful of the cutoff date.

Continue to promote our programs to your local schools, churches, scouts and ROTC family and friends. Here's an idea for a youth project for the month of February. Partner with your VFW and encourage our youth to put together a social event with a day of recognition for the birthday of our 1st

United States President (February 19th) or National Freedom Day (February 1st) let them share why these dates are an important part of our history. Have them invite 1st Responders and the community leaders. What an awesome way for our Youth to learn, show patriotism and give community service.

And let's not forget to reward them with a RAP card. Remember, our Youth are our future and our leaders of tomorrow. We must continue to cover them with a strong armor of Patriotism, loyalty, honor and courage to ensure our freedom that many have given their all is greatly appreciated and never lost.

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**LEGISLATIVE
Cheyenne Harper - Chairman**

Greetings from your Legislation Chairman. Have you reached out to your Senators or your House of Representatives about the new after action going on right now.

The new after action has where it talks about claim sharks. The definition of a claim shark is where there trying to charge our Veterans and the survivors a hefty price to assist or consult. What they are doing is illegal. They want Veterans to pay for their earned benefits. Which no Veteran should do. Please make sure you sign up for after action. Make sure you keep yourself updated with the VFW Legislation as well as Veterans' Legislation. The reports that are coming are great. I enjoy seeing the poster you are making. Here is a thought on your poster as well. Some people are having their kids in the school and posting all around their communities.

Please encourage people to sign up to vote. Voting does not stop just because a big election is done. There are elections in your communities going on that could affect veterans and their families' lives as well. Keep up the great work!

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**

GERALD SPRADLIN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY GUARD
2024-2025**

**Endorsed by District 19 & Auxiliaries
Endorsed by Post/Auxiliary 1836**

ALETHA JETER

**CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H

2024-2026

KAREN KAYLOR

**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H**

2024 – 2026

**ENDORSED BY VFW AUXILIARY 4008
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 14**

JO ELLA MENN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER
2024-2025**

**ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6**